

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT AND LEVEE COMPLIANCE

Ms Karen Durham-Aguilera, P.E., SES
**Director, Contingency Operations
& Homeland Security**

4 April 2012



US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®



Flood Risk Management: Corporate Goal for Levees

In a collaborative and shared manner with resource agencies and levee sponsors, transition existing levees to Corps standards while maintaining Public Law 84-99 eligibility and adhering to the Endangered Species Act and other federal environmental laws.



Options

Policy Document

Policy Elements

Improve Levee System and/or
Seek Other Solutions

System-Wide
Improvement
Framework
(SWIF)

- Worst-first
- Interim Progress Milestones
- Long-term Plan
- Regional Solutioneering Teams

ETL 1110-2-571
Standards

- Set-back Levees
- Planting Berms
- National Solutioneering Team
- Can be part of SWIF

Vegetation
Variance
Process
(PGL)

- Environmental Considerations
- Technical Review
- Vegetation Management Plan
- Can be included in the SWIF

Reduce Flood Risk



System-Wide Improvement Framework

- Sponsors maintain eligibility for rehabilitation assistance while improving levee systems.
- Incorporates "worst first" to optimize risk reduction.
- Encourages intergovernmental collaboration.
- Provides time to address both levee safety and environmental and Tribal considerations.
- Recognizes regional differences.
- Two phase process – Letter of Intent followed by SWIF.



Policy Guidance Letter (PGL) Vegetation Variance Request

- Levee vegetation standards provide for reliable access (for inspections, operation and maintenance, and flood fighting) and reduce potential direct impacts from roots.
- Permanent vegetation variance may be requested to meet unique, regional situations to preserve, protect, and/or enhance natural resources and/or protect rights of Tribal Nations.
- Safety, structural integrity, and functionality of the levee, and accessibility for inspection and flood fighting must be retained.



Next Steps for Achieving Corporate Goal

- Widely distributed SWIF policy last quarter CY2011.
- Posted draft vegetation variance policy in Federal Register for public comment first quarter CY2012.
- Finalize vegetation variance policy after comment review.
- Support future research on woody vegetation in CY2012.
- Continue supporting regional collaborative efforts, such as in Washington and California.



Questions?

